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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY S/S-O: LEGGIO

APPROVED BY S/S-O: MACK

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. BRITISH GOVERNMENT BREEZES THROUGH RHODESIA DEBATE

ACCORDING TO EMBASSY LONDON, PARLIAMENT'S OCTOBER 20 DEBATE ON RHODESIA PROVED LESS TRYING FOR THE GOVERNMENT THAN EXPECTED. IN THE DEBATE:

--DODGING QUESTIONS EFFECTIVELY, FOREIGN SECRETARY CROSLAND STRESSED THAT, AS FAR AS THE UK IS CONCERNED, IAN SMITH'S FIVE POINTS HAVE NO SPECIAL STANDING. (CROSLAND IMPLIED THAT OTHER PARTIES MAY NOT SHARE THE BRITISH VIEW).

--WITH NO APPARENT STRATEGY, SHADOW FOREIGN SECRETARY MAUDLING CALLED FOR A MORE VIGOROUS BRITISH ROLE IN THE RHODESIAN INTERIM GOVERNMENT AND HINTED THAT THE

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CONSERVATIVES WILL RECONSIDER THEIR STAND ON SANCTIONS

IF THE GENEVA TALKS FAIL DUE TO BLACK EXTREMISM.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THOUGH THE TORIES DID NOT STRIKE AT THE GOVERNMENT AS HARD AS IN THE PREVIOUS DEBATE, THEY WILL SEIZE ON ANY OPPORTUNITY TO CRY "DOUBLE CROSS" ONCE THE

GENEVA MEETING BEGINS. WE SHOULD EXPECT THE INFLUENTIAL RHODESIA LOBBY IN THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY TO BECOME MORE ACTIVE AS THE GENEVA TALKS PROCEED. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) LONDON 16951, 10/22.)

2. PRC: TENG HSIAO-PING ON THE REBOUND?

IN THE VIEW OF CONSULATE GENERAL HONG KONG, SOME ASPECTS OF TENG HSAIO-PING'S "LINE" MAY BE RESTORED BY THE NEW PRC GOVERNMENT, AND TENG HIMSELF MAY EVENTUALLY RETURN TO A POSITION OF PROMINENCE. SIGNS THAT TENG MAY REEMERGE INCLUDE:

--CHARGES THAT THE "SHANGHAI FOUR" FALSIFIED AND DISTORTED MAO'S INSTRUCTIONS AND, BY IMPLICATION, CARRIED THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST TENG TOO FAR;

--THE SUDDEN DROP-OFF IN CRITICISM OF TENG AND OF HIS ALLEGED "COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY REVISIONIST LINE; AND

--THE APPARENT REINSTATEMENT OF SEVERAL OF TENG'S ASSOCIATES WHO WERE PURGED EARLIER THIS YEAR.

THE CONSULATE GENERAL ADDS THAT, WITH THE NEW LEADERSHIP PREOCCUPIED BY MORE PRESSING PROBLEMS, TENG'S REEMERGENCE MIGHT COME LATER RATHER THAN SOONER, PERHAPS ONLY AFTER AN OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION. (CONFIDENTIAL) HONG KONG 12453, 10/22.)

3. RABIN COMMENTS ON ARAB-ISRAELI AFFAIRS

DURING A RECENT SESSION WITH DEPUTY DEFENSE SECRETARY CLEMENTS, PRIME MINISTER RABIN NOTED:

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--BUILT-IN INSTABILITY IN ARAB COUNTRIES PRECLUDES A PEACEFUL MIDDLE EAST, WHICH MUST AWAIT A TRANSITION IN ARAB SOCIETY.

--AS LONG AS FULL PEACE CANNOT BE ACHIEVED, ISRAEL WILL CONTINUE ON ITS PATH OF INTERIM AGREEMENTS, WHICH HAVE BROUGHT BOTH RISKS AND ADVANTAGES.

--BASIC ISRAELI POLICY REMAINS MOVEMENT TOWARD PEACE OR TOWARD TERMINATION OF THE STATE OF WAR. NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD PROCEED ON THE MOST VIABLE OF THESE ALTERNATIVES.

--HOPEFULLY, THE US WILL NOT BE TOO EAGER TO TAKE THE DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE IN 1977 AND WILL ENCOURAGE TRENDS WHICH ARE ALREADY APPARENT IN THE ARAB WORLD.

--THE SITUATION FIVE YEARS AGO IN LEBANON WAS MORE FAVORABLE FOR ISRAEL THAN ANY POSSIBLE OUTCOME OF THE PRESENT STRUGGLE. (CONFIDENTIAL) TEL AVIV 7201, 10/21.)

4. PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS SAVE FACE ON NATO MEETING

"AFTER EXAMINING MORE THOROUGHLY THE OBJECTIVES OF NEXT MONTH'S NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY" IN WILLIAMSBURG, THE PCP CONCLUDED THAT THEIR "PARTICIPATION COULD NOT BE POSITIVE" AND HENCE, "DECLINED THE INVITATION" TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PORTUGUESE DELEGATION. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) LISBON 7247, 10/22.)

5. GDR SENDS A MESSAGE ON HUMANITARIAN CASES

WITHIN THE PAST THREE WEEKS, THE GDR HAS DECIDED TO RESOLVE SIX OF OUR MOST TROUBLESOME HUMANITARIAN CASES AS WELL AS THREE LESS DIFFICULT ONES. EMBASSY BERLIN COMMENTS THAT THE GDR MAY BE SEEKING TO:

--IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS;

--APPEAR IN A FAVORABLE LIGHT IN ANY REVIEW OF US-GDR
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RELATIONS AFTER OUR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS; AND

--ESTABLISH A BETTER TRACK RECORD IN PREPARATION FOR THE BELGRADE CSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE.

THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS WE EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR THE SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF THESE CASES. (CONFIDENTIAL) BERLIN 6968, 10/21.) KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEBATES, POLITICAL STABILITY, PERSONAL OPINION, PEACE, HUMAN RIGHTS, MORNING SUMMARY, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE263219
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: LEGGIO
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760398-0030
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761021/aaaaarka.tel
Line Count: 162
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SSO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <18 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS
TAGS: PFOR, UK, RH, CH, IS, XF, PO, GC, NATO, (RABIN, YITZHAK), (TENG HSIAO-PING)
To: NSA DIA TRSY MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006